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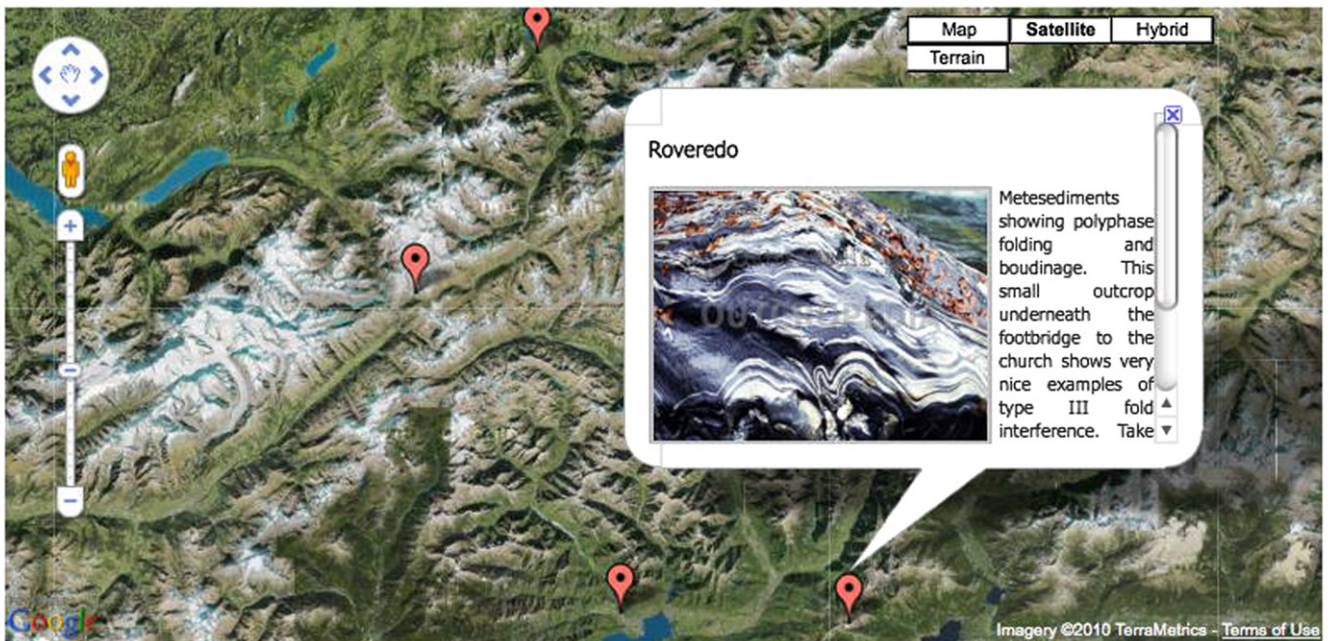
Editorial

Outcropedia

[HOME](#) [OUTCROPEDIA](#) [ABOUT US](#) [FREQUENT QUESTIONS](#) [CONTACT US](#)



Outcropedia - The online outcrop database project



Example of an outcrop in the Outcropedia.

The “Photograph of the Month” is now well established as a Journal of Structural Geology initiative, and I hope you enjoy the content. However, you may wonder where these beautiful outcrops are, and how they could be visited. I would therefore like to introduce a new initiative related to the “Photograph of the Month”, called the “Outcropedia”.

Outcropedia is sponsored by TecTask (<http://www.tectask.org>), the Commission of the IUGS concerned with promoting structural geology and tectonics. The aim of Outcropedia is to make a central, public database of the most important and magnificent outcrops in the World. This has two main purposes:

- (1) to make outcrops in unfamiliar places known and accessible to other geologists who would like to organise field trips, study particular structures in excellent exposure or set up new cooperative research projects.
- (2) to increase protection of our geological heritage. Many beautiful outcrops are threatened by road building, housing estates or otherwise permanently damaged because the geological importance of the site is simply unknown outside the Earth Science community.

Outcropedia is presently accessible as a web site where the database of outcrops can be seen in GoogleMaps, with short explanations and photographs, and where new outcrops can be entered after registering on the site.

We feel that a database like *Outcropedia* can be a great tool to promote structural geology and would like to invite all readers of the *Journal of Structural Geology* to contribute material. Details at <http://www.outcropedia.org>.

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